



## THE REPORTER'S NOTES

### Farewell to the Nay-Sayer

Soon the corridors of the State Department will see the last of Under Secretary Herbert Hoover, Jr., the man who came in more than two years ago as the son of the Great Engineer to sit at Mr. Dulles's right hand, and who now goes out of office amid a chorus of resounding silence.

He had been appointed not because of his wide knowledge of world affairs or his experience at large-scale management—he had neither—but because an Administration anxious to appease its own right wing had thought that to honor a Hoover scion with high office might do the trick. Dulles, after all, would remain his boss. But Mr. Hoover, the younger, outwardly a colorless, silent man, soon displayed such an outstanding backstage ability at crossing up, slowing, and frustrating his boss—and, on occasion, the President himself—that the trick worked only too well. He opposed the scope of Dulles's foreign-aid program, particularly with respect to India. He opposed Dulles's plan for cultural exchanges with the Communist world.

As Chairman of the Operations Coordinating Board, Mr. Hoover opposed the closer dealings with Tito that Dulles had been advocating. During the Suez crisis, while both the President and Secretary Dulles were absent from the capital, he found so many obstacles to throw in the path of prompt U.S. oil-tanker relief of Britain and France that the several weeks' delay further embittered inter-Allied relations.

Repeatedly, when on his own as Acting Secretary, Hoover had to be amended, corrected, or disavowed. He never came up with a positive idea, and one of his last actions was simply to block the appointment of a positive man, General Walter

Bedell Smith, as a special foreign-affairs aide to the White House.

He disappears from the scene with a "Dear Herbert" Presidential letter of thanks. We are thankful too.